

Immunization Registry Progress in Oregon

Note: Unless otherwise stated, the information in this fact sheet was obtained from data and information submitted by the program manager or representative from the immunization program in Oregon. June 1999.

Immunization Coverage in Oregon:

According to National Immunization Survey (NIS) data for July 1997 to June 1998, the percentage of children 19-35 months of age who were up-to-date with 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, 3 doses of poliomyelitis, and 1 dose of measles, mumps, rubella vaccine was 75%.

Facts about Oregon's Immunization Registry (ALERT):

- ALERT collects and manages immunization data for the entire state of Oregon.
- The targeted age group for ALERT is all children from birth through 2-year olds.
- Immunization registries, which are integrated with other information systems are more efficient and sustainable, because records can be consolidated and redundant information only needs to be entered once. Currently, entities which link with the registry include:
 - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program
 - Daycare Facilities
 - Schools
 - Community/Migrant Health Centers
 - Indian Health Service
 - Military Health System
 - Public Health Clinic Patient Management/Billing System
 - Private Medical Practice Management/Billing System
 - Managed Care Organizations
- As of April 1999:
 - 70% of children less than 6-years old were enrolled in the registry.
 - 94.1% of all providers were enrolled in the registry.

Other unique qualities about ALERT:

ALERT has a high participation among Oregon providers, and 70% send data to ALERT on a regular basis. Most county health departments participate, and submit all children's immunization records electronically.

Oregon is implementing ALERT through well-attended community meetings of health care practitioners from both the private and public sectors. At each county-wide or community meeting, ALERT staff address how the electronically-stored information in ALERT can benefit providers, individually and collectively. They receive information that includes: how to access consolidated patient immunization histories (via 800 line), identify patients who are due for an immunization, assess their immunization rates, and what interventions they can use to improve immunization rates.

Other registry plans, accomplishments, and successes:

- There are 750,000 patient records with 4.7 million immunization records in the registry.
- Fourteen community meetings were held since January 1999 to promote the use of ALERT to providers.
- A Security and Confidentiality policy is in place to protect information.
- Other registry projects which are in progress or planned through 1999 include: a statewide patient recall system for under-immunized children, a secure Internet site for authorized users, development of a parent brochure, and enhanced information for schools and child facilities.

Some challenges and barriers affecting registry progress:

- Maintaining provider participation and enthusiasm takes resources and continued attention.
- Providing written materials and education for parents, the public, providers, and other interested parties - expertise is needed in this area.
- Providing effective reminders to parents when their child is due or late for an immunization.

Current political or legislative factors affecting registry activity:

There is a Legislative Resolution supporting ALERT in the current legislative session.

Current registry funding:

ALERT is funded through an innovative private/public collaboration. The Oregon Health Systems in Collaboration (OHSIC) provides 54% of ALERT's operational funding. Most OHSIC members are from Oregon's managed care plans, who have joined together to find common solutions to raise Oregon's immunization rate for children (as well as other community health issues). Other funding sources include state Medicaid, the Health Division, and a grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant runs out mid-2000. Without additional private funding, ALERT will have to scale back development plans. OHSIC may continue to provide funds for several years.

Helpful immunization and immunization registry contacts in Oregon:

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